

BEHEMOTH:

● Loch Ness: Mr Raphael Imbert, of Rognes, France, sent me the following sighting from Loch Ness (translated from French): "Mme. Macdougall saw the following in the summer of 1982, from Foyers Hotel: a large gray-black hump which shone golden in the sun, it basked for seven minutes, then dived and reappeared three minutes later. Then it finally submerged. Mme. Macdougall was in the presence of several more witnesses. She also told me she had watched Operation Deepscan - it didn't pass Foyers Bay." Mr. Imbert also sent me a sketch of the sighting, the LNM closely resembles the 'thing' observed by Tim Dinsdale. What it was - a boat, the monster, a wave - is not clear from this sketchy report. Another 'monster', a 'puma', was observed at Strathnairn, near Inverness, in March 1988. (Pursuit 21:1, 1988, p.45) The bridge over the Moray Firth and problems related to earthquakes in the region, see Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 1. Feb 89, p.47. Floods of the River Ness, washing away the Inverness Railway Bridge, the Times, 8. Feb 89, p.24.

● Bibliography: - Ian Watson has published a SF-novel 'Fire Worm', linking England's famous Lambton Worm with psychotherapy, according to a review in the Observer (18. Dec 88, p.43e) It was published by Gollancz in 1988. - A winged serpent seen in the French Alps in 1931 or 32 by André Mellia. Similar creatures have reportedly been spotted in Italy. (cf. Le Clin d'oeil, Nr. 19, Feb 88, p.15/16). - Die Zeit on Loch Ness (27. Jan 89, p. 75) and on dragons (23. Dec 88, p.75), both contributions taken from 'Science Trivia', Plenum Publ., New York 1986). - U. Magin on European dragons, in Mysteria, Nr.70, Jan 89, p.13 - 19. - reports of crocodile-like creature, explained with escaped 60 cm lizard, in Island Heights, New Jersey. (Saudi Gazette/SG, 5 Sept 88, p.7).

'Lake Monster Traditions - A cross-cultural study' has just been published by Fortean Tomes, 1 Shoebury Rd., East Ham, London E6 2AQ, England. This is Michel Meurger's long awaited study of lake monster phenomena, including all the related myths like bottomless lakes, interconnected lakes, ufos and ghost lights, mermaids and strange humanoids. This is the best book on the mythology of monsters that I've seen, many of my own ideas are reflected in the book, go and buy it! (\$ 27.95 or 13.95 Pound Sterling)

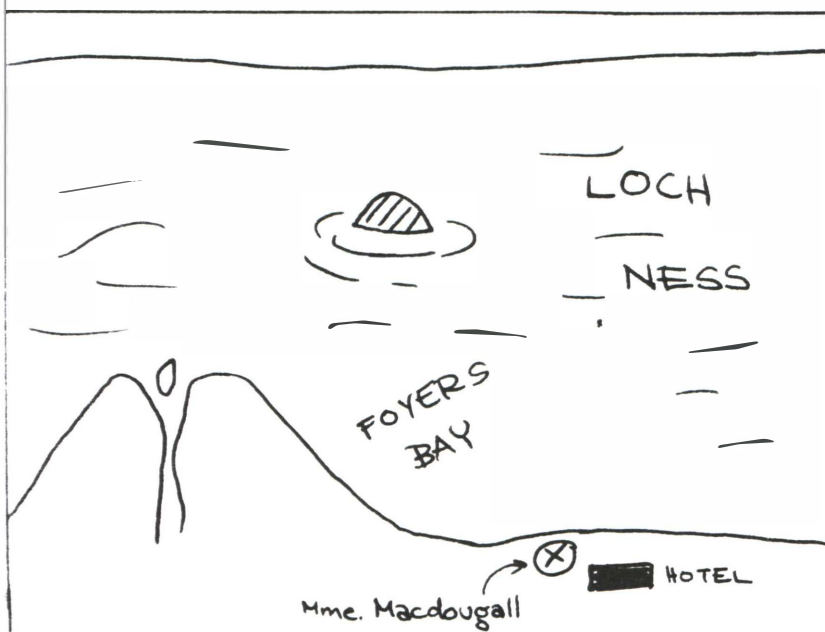
● Die Tribüne (East Germany's Union newspaper), on Aug 22, 88, had an interview with Sergej Klimov, a Russian cryptozoologists. He reported two sea serpent sightings (see below) as well as new facts from the Siberian monsters. He mentions famous Lake Chair in Jakutia. A certain Wassili Filippov took photographs of this monster in the presence of several additional witnesses. The local village Soviet sealed the pictures, so giving them official recognition. So far, the animal in the pictures has not been identified. Klimov also mentions an unnamed lake between Chair and Kular, which has never been visited by man. A certain Vladimir Kutchme, a teacher, flew over the lake and saw a strange big creature that surfaced below him. It dived down again, and had also been observed by four additional passengers of the helicopter. Klimov added that there were some 500 000 lakes in Jakutia, most of them unexplored.

● Muskrat Lake, Toronto, Canada: The Ottawa Citizen (13 Oct 88) had a short report about this lake monster. Early in October Michael Bradley, a Toronto author, spent his time at Muskrat Lake researching the local monster. He plans to write a book about the hunt and claims to have made three "unusual" sonar contacts with large animals and may actually have seen Mussie, as the creature is called, on the surface. Bradley says the monster was about 200 metres away

from his boat at the deep, northern end of the narrow lake. "I thought I saw a back break the surface twice. I don't know yet if I have pictures." It was a two-metre, dull red animal that moved back into the water too fast to be photographed. Carolyn Gray, the expedition's photographer, took pictures of the sonar screen, which are being studied at the moment by the sonar manufacturer in Oklahoma. Locals do not seem to take their monster very serious, they took Bradley's hunt as a farce. Bradley thinks the monster is probably a type of primitive, landlocked walrus that could drown if trapped.

ISIS:

● Bibliography: An article by Francois de Sarre, "About an aquatic stage in man's evolution, with references to Max Westenhöfer and initial bipedalism" which is



very interesting, in Bipedia 2, March 1989, p. 1 -4. The same issue also contains my article on "Edgar Dacqué - a German pioneer of evolution research" (pp. 5 - 10) Dacqué thought that man once passed through an amphibian and an reptilian evolutionary stage, this would explain mermaids and the American lizard man. (Anyway, if you look for biological explanations.) Bipedia is available from CERBI, BP 65, 06022 Nice cedex, FRANCE.

LEVIATHAN:

- Russian sea serpents: The article in Die Tribüne, already quoted, also contains two new sightings of sea monsters from the USSR. The first comes from 1961, when estonian fishermen caught the carcass of a strange sea creature, that Klimov (of the Soviet Academy-Institute for Evolution Morphology and Ecology of Animals) compares to the carcass caught by Japanese fishermen near New Zealand in 1977 (which was only a decomposed shark). The creature weighed 5 tonnes. The fishermen threw away the stinking thing before it could be scientifically investigated. This was probably only a shark.

The second report has no date. Captain Sergej Lebedev from the whaler "Delphin" encountered a strange sea creature in the 4th Kurile Strair. The ship came as close as 20 - 30 metres (70 to 100 ft). They intended to harpune the animal, but were frightened by its sheer size. The part of the creature's back over water had a diameter of some 15 metres (50 ft)! Suddely bubbles rose from the water, and the large back dived down. This sounds like the old Norwegian Kraken stories - cxertainly this was not the typical sea serpent, nor Steller's sea cow or simply a giant octopus. It would be interesting to learn if Kraken traditions exist among Russian mariners.

- Harlech, Wales: The giant leatherback turtle stranded there in September 1988 was also mentioned in the SG, 28. Sept 88,p.6fg

- Dhiba, Saudi Arabia: Rafi Ahmed and Attallah Al Huwamil found a large turle on the beach in Dhiba. The SG (16. Sept 88,p.3a) says the turle was 500 years old, weighed 450 kilos, and it took six people to lift it in a jeep. Prince Fahad Bin Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz, the Governor of Tabuk, ordered the sea turtle to be kept in the zoo in Riyad. This semi-folkloric report was corrected in a later issue of the SG (22. Sept 88,p.3f): the turtle was at least 40, but probably even 100 years old (and not 500!) Weigh-ins came up with 375 kilos and 175 kilos. A zoo official: "The specimen is a female and may be carrying several hundred eggs. It is fully adult." It was identified as green sea turtle.

KRAKEN:

- Geo, Dec 88,p.154 - 166, had an article by Fred Bavendam on Octopus dofleini, the goant octopus of the Pacific Ocean. ("Hirn auf acht Beinen")

USOS:

- Sweden: The continuing story of strange submarines in the territorial waters of Sweden. On sept 2, 88, Swedish patrol boats fired depth charges at a suspected foreign sub in a narrow inlet at the west coast. This was the second times that fire had been opened, it was not clear if the sub had been hit, defense spokesman H G Wessberg said. (SG, 3 Sept 88, p.6h)

On Sept 14, the Swedish Navy said they were testing a new weapon against submarines - a fishing line with a magnet. (SG, 14 Sept 88,p.3a) On Sept 28, Sweden's Navy said alien ships were constantly reconnoitering theit jegged coastline, eluding Swedish patrols in a maze of islands and underwater coves. This would explain Sweden's lack of success in their many hunts for alien submarines, Commander Lennart Danielsson said. (SG, 29. Sept 88,p.5h)

WHALES:

- - 80-tonne, 74 ft blue whale washed ashore near San Francisco, USA (SG, 9. Sept 88,p.6f)
- 20 dead whales washed ashore south of Tasmania around Dec 10. (Rheinpfalz, 12. Dec 88)
- dolphin stranded in Virginia, USA (SG & Arab News/AN, 24. Dec 88) - 6.7 metre, 2.446 kg whale stranded at Orlando, Florida (Luxemburger Wort, 7. Jan 89,p.2g) - 31 pilot whales beached at La Paz Bay, Mexico, on Jan 13 and 14. 40 people joined efforts to push them back into the sea (AN, 16. Jan 89,p.12ef, Rheinpfalz, 16. Jan 89) - dolphin stranded at Augusta, Perth, Australia (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28. Jan 89) - 13. Feb, 16 ft, 25 tons sperm whale washed ashore near Oostduinkerke, Belgium. This was the first whale stranding in Belgium since 1963. (The Times, 14. Feb 89, p.8)

SHARKS:

- - 15 dolphins protect 17 year-old A. Macguire from an attack by a tiger shark off Sydney, NSW, Australia. (Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 6. Jan 89,p.5d, AN 5. Jan 89,p.4d, SG, 5. Jan 89, p. 4b, Rheinpfalz, 5 Jan 89) - 24 year-old woman attacked by shark off Ventura, California (The Times, 1. Feb 89,p.11g) - 46 year-old Luciano Costanzo killed by a shark on Feb 2 off Tuscany. Later, boats and helicopters joined a hunt for the supposed 20 ft white shark. This was the first Italian attack for 27 years. Later, a 7.2m fox shark was caught off Tunesia, which proved to be innocent. (The Times, 4. Feb,p.7d, 7. Feb,p.7a, 8. Feb,p.9, Rheinpfalz, 4. Feb and 6. Feb., SWF 3, 8. Feb 89, AN, 8. Feb 89,p.16c) Another Italian omen: the sea at Genoa is at its lowest level for 80 years. Local fishermen revive long-dormant superstition and flock into churches. (AN, 13. Feb 89,p.16f) Same time, people are asked to pray for rain in Saudi Arabia. (AN 16. Feb,p.2, SG, 16. Feb 89,p.2)